

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

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Anvil Cr.
**INSPECTION REPORT
SPECIMEN GULCH
F996842**

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RLA

JDD

LNJ

RFM

WAM

ARM

AGO

RTS

PKW

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Inspection Date: August 23 and August 25, 1999
Owner: Alaska Gold Company; Betty Krutzsch
Operator: Betty and Augie Krutzsch
Agency Personnel: Ryan Hull, Bruce Novinska, and Bruce Buzby
Weather Conditions: clear and sunny temperature 60°
Photos: p0001247-p0001269, p0001358-p0001364
GPS Files: R082601a, R082603a, R082604a, and R082604b
Inspection Objectives: Follow up inspection and to map footprint of the operation.

*Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Habitat - Region III*

Robert McLean and Nancy Ihlenfeldt from the Dept. of Fish and Game accompanied the inspectors.

MINING

When we arrived on August 23 the backhoe was down for repairs and mining activity had ceased for the day. When we returned on August 25 mining activity was being conducted in the 1999 cut. The pay pile was being washed, and washed rock was being hauled and used to armor the stream banks. During this inspection the area of disturbance was measured and determined to be 29.7 acres. A map showing the disturbed and reclaimed acres has been included in this report (see diagram 1).

RECLAMATION

Some reclamation has been done on the 1998 pit. The overburden piles have been rounded but more work would be required in order to consider this reclaimed (see Figure 1).

During this inspection we noted a significant amount of the disturbance on the right limit and upper portion of the disturbance is in a stable configuration. There are three things that need to be addressed before we can release the area shown on Diagram 1. First in the upper portion above where the stream starts, there is an island of overburden that needs to be pushed over to the right limit and a stable slope established (see Figure 2). Second there is an oversteepened slope on the right limit in the upper portion of disturbance that needs to be recontoured (see Figure 3). Finally in the upper portion, the stream channel needs to be realigned so that it will not cut into the bank on the right limit (see Figure 4). Once these

measures are taken and we receive photographs and documentation that these areas were reclaimed we can release 12.5 acres.

Placing rip rap along the stream channel is critical to the long-term stability of the stream channel. This is especially true in the area between the 1997 capped sediment ponds and 1999 dam (see Figure 5).

There has been a tremendous effort to revegetate the disturbed areas that have been regraded. Walking from the lower capped ponds to the top of the disturbance we noted grasses and clover. Along the banks of the creek and the upper slopes willows have been planted. The survival rate is estimated and around 20 percent. Bruce Novinska demonstrated willow staking techniques that should improve the survivability of the willow staking. I have also included in this report several pages on willow planting from the "Streambank Revegetation Project" by Gay A. Muhlberg and Nancy Moore. The 1997 capped ponds are holding up well and revegetating nicely (see Figure 6). We will release a portion of the bond on these ponds but maintain a thirty-foot buffer zone along the edge of the stream.

Finally all springs must be tied into the stream channel and not directed through the settling ponds to help prevent the ponds from failing during the spring breakup.

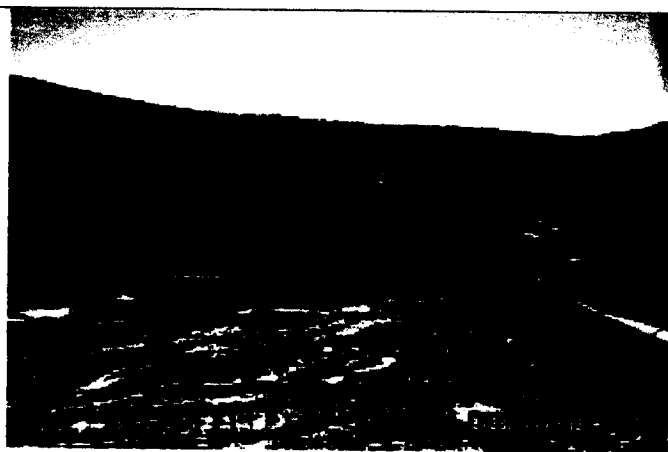


Figure 1. 1998 Pit – p1263

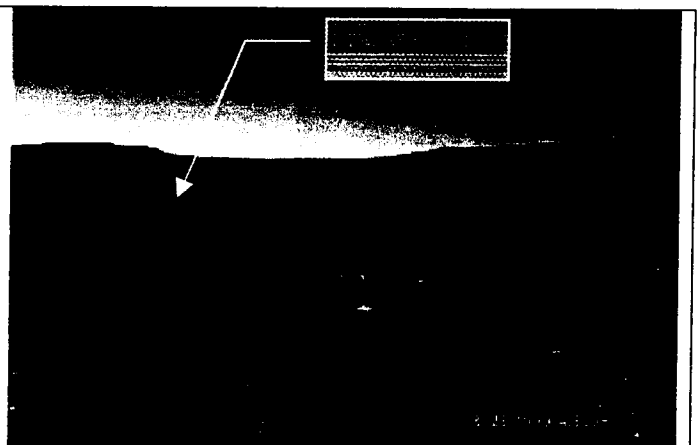


Figure 2. Island in upper portion – p1250



Figure 3. Oversteepened slope – p1360

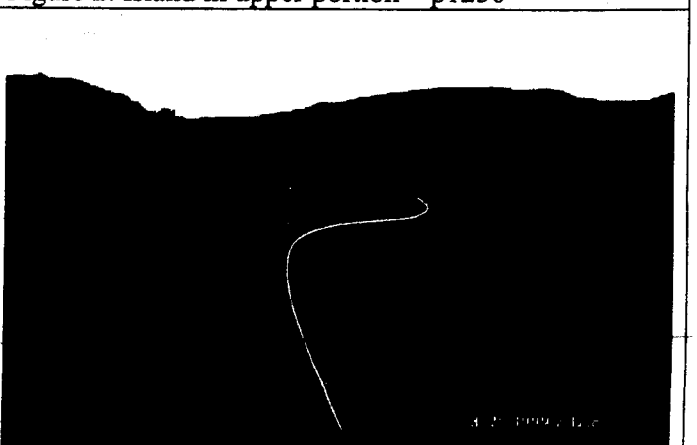


Figure 4. Realign stream channel – p1359

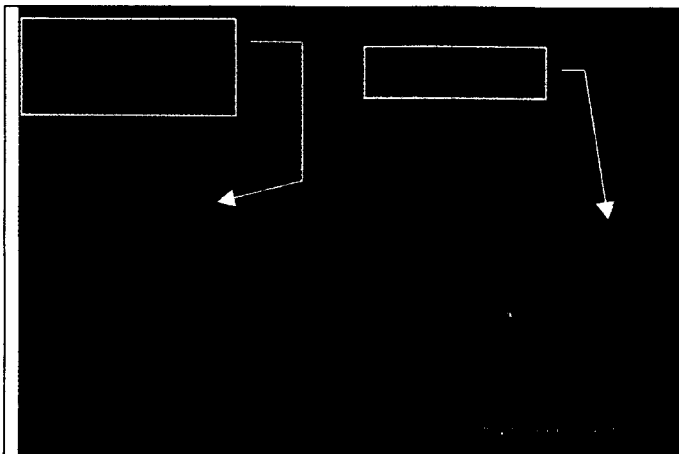


Figure 5. Armor creek channel – p1260



Figure 6. Revegetation on 1997 capped ponds – p1262

cc: Ryan Hull, Division of Mining, Land and Water
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Scott Miller, Alaska Gold Company
Mac McLean, Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Cindi Godsey, EPA
Michael Yanez, City of Nome
Don Rice, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Joran Freeman, Office of Environmental Health, Nome

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